IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-13, 18, 25-30, and 36-40 without prejudice or disclaimer as to the subject matter thereof.

1.-13. (canceled)

14. (currently amended) A method according to claim 17~~13~~, further comprising detecting an intrinsic depolarization of the heart via the electrode, wherein coupling the second capacitor comprises coupling the second capacitor to the heart following expiration of an extra-systolic interval after the detection to deliver an extra-systolic pulse to the heart.

15. (currently amended) A method according to claim 17~~13~~, wherein coupling the first capacitor comprises coupling the first capacitor to the heart upon expiration of an escape interval to deliver a pacing pulse to the heart, and coupling the second capacitor comprises coupling the second capacitor to the heart following expiration of an extra-systolic interval after delivery of the pacing pulse to deliver an extra-systolic pulse to the heart.

16. (original) A method according to claim 15, wherein an amplitude of the extra-systolic pulse is less than an amplitude of the pacing pulse.

17. (currently amended) ~~A method according to claim 13,~~ A method comprising:

coupling a first capacitor that stores energy to an electrode at a first time for delivery of a first pacing pulse to a heart; and

coupling a second capacitor that stores energy to the electrode at a second time for delivery of a second pacing pulse to the heart, wherein the electrode is a first electrode, the method further comprising coupling the second capacitor to a second electrode for delivery of a first cardiac resynchronization therapy pacing pulse, and wherein coupling the first capacitor to the first electrode comprises coupling the first capacitor to the first electrode for delivery of a second cardiac resynchronization therapy pacing pulse, and coupling the second capacitor to the first electrode comprises coupling the second capacitor to the first electrode for delivery of an extra-systolic pulse.

18. (canceled)

19. (currently amended) ~~A method according to claim 13,~~ A method comprising:

coupling a first capacitor that stores energy to an electrode at a first time for delivery of a first pacing pulse to a heart; and

coupling a second capacitor that stores energy to the electrode at a second time for delivery of a second pacing pulse to the heart, wherein the electrode is a first electrode, the method further comprising coupling a third capacitor to a second electrode for delivery of a first cardiac resynchronization therapy pacing pulse, and

wherein coupling the first capacitor to the first electrode comprises coupling the first capacitor to the first electrode for delivery of a second cardiac resynchronization therapy pacing pulse, and coupling the second capacitor to the first electrode comprises coupling the second capacitor to at least one of the first and second electrodes for delivery of an extra-systolic pulse.

20. (currently amended) ~~A method according to claim 13,~~ A method comprising:

coupling a first capacitor that stores energy to an electrode at a first time for delivery of a first pacing pulse to a heart; and

coupling a second capacitor that stores energy to the electrode at a second time for delivery of a second pacing pulse to the heart, wherein the electrode is a first electrode, the method further comprising coupling a third capacitor to a second electrode for delivery of a first cardiac resynchronization therapy pacing pulse, and

wherein coupling the first capacitor to the first electrode comprises coupling the first capacitor to the first electrode for delivery of a second cardiac resynchronization therapy pacing pulse, and coupling the second capacitor to the first electrode comprises coupling the second capacitor the first electrode for delivery of a first extra-systolic pulse, and

the method further comprising coupling a fourth capacitor to the second electrode for delivery of a second extra-systolic pulse.

21. (original) A method according to claim 20, wherein coupling the second capacitor to the first electrode comprises delivering the first extra-systolic pulse at a first time and with a first amplitude, and coupling the fourth capacitor to the second electrode comprises delivering the second extra-systolic pulse at a second time and with a second amplitude.

22. (original) A method according to claim 21, further comprising:

delivering cardiac resynchronization pacing pulses during a first period; and

delivering extra-systolic pulses during a second period.

23. (original) A method according to claim 21, wherein delivering extra-systolic pulses comprises delivering extra-systolic pulses following expiration of an extra-systolic interval after delivery of cardiac resynchronization pacing pulses.

24. (currently amended) A method according to claim ~~13~~17, wherein the electrode is one electrode of an electrode pair and wherein said one electrode is adapted to couple to the heart in one of the following locations: an endocardial location, an epicardial location, a transvenous location, a subcutaneous location, a pericardial location, a location within a cardiac vein, a location within a coronary sinus.

25.-40. (canceled)

41. (new) An apparatus comprising:

means for coupling a first capacitor that stores energy to an electrode at a first time for delivery of a first pacing pulse to a heart; and

means for coupling a second capacitor that stores energy to the electrode at a second time for delivery of a second pacing pulse to the heart, wherein the electrode is a first electrode, the method further comprising coupling the second capacitor to a second electrode for delivery of a first cardiac resynchronization therapy pacing pulse, and

wherein the means for coupling the first capacitor to the first electrode comprises means for coupling the first capacitor to the first electrode for delivery of a second cardiac resynchronization therapy pacing pulse, and the means for coupling the second capacitor to the first electrode comprises means for coupling the second capacitor to the first electrode for delivery of an extra-systolic pulse.

42. (new) An apparatus comprising:

means for coupling a first capacitor that stores energy to an electrode at a first time for delivery of a first pacing pulse to a heart; and

means for coupling a second capacitor that stores energy to the electrode at a second time for delivery of a second pacing pulse to the heart, wherein the electrode comprises a first electrode, the apparatus further comprising means for coupling a third capacitor to a second electrode for delivery of a first cardiac resynchronization therapy pacing pulse, and

wherein the means for coupling the first capacitor to the first electrode comprises means for coupling the first capacitor to the first electrode for delivery of a second cardiac resynchronization therapy pacing pulse, and the means for coupling the second capacitor to the first electrode further comprises means for coupling the second capacitor the first electrode for delivery of a first extra-systolic pulse, and

the apparatus further comprising means for coupling a fourth capacitor to the second electrode for delivery of a second extra-systolic pulse.

43. (new) An apparatus according to claim 42, wherein the means for coupling the second capacitor to the first electrode comprises means for delivering the first extra-systolic pulse at a first time and with a first amplitude, and means for coupling the fourth capacitor to the second electrode further comprises means for delivering the second extra-systolic pulse at a second time and with a second amplitude.

44. (new) An apparatus according to claim 43, further comprising:

means for delivering cardiac resynchronization pacing pulses during a first period; and

means for delivering extra-systolic pulses during a second period.

45. (new) An apparatus according to claim 43, wherein the means for delivering extra-systolic pulses comprises means for delivering extra-systolic pulses following expiration of an extra-systolic interval after delivery of cardiac resynchronization pacing pulses.

46. (new) An apparatus according to claim 42, wherein the electrode comprises one electrode of an electrode pair and wherein said one electrode is adapted to couple to the heart in one of the following locations: an endocardial location, an epicardial location, a transvenous location, a subcutaneous location, a pericardial location, a location within a cardiac vein, a location within a coronary sinus.